

# The Power of Family Literacy is the Power of Success!



## Family Literacy Works!

Throughout the United States, studies by the National Center for Family Literacy, the National Institute on Literacy, and private foundations have consistently demonstrated positive outcomes from family literacy programs:

- Children's reading comprehension improved
- Parents and children reading together increased
- Parent and child time together increased
- More frequent library visits
- More children promoted with their classes
- Higher percentage of GED completions than in adult only programs
- Higher employment rate for adults than in adult only programs
- Reduced dependence on public assistance
- Increased English proficiency for English language learners
- Increased family connections to schools and community

### Statement of compliance with Federal law

The Michigan Department of Education complies with all Federal laws and regulations prohibiting discrimination, and with all requirements and regulations of the U.S. Department of Education.  
21,000 pieces printed at \$.084 each; Total cost: \$1764.00



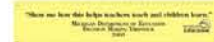
Dr. Barbara Bolin  
Director



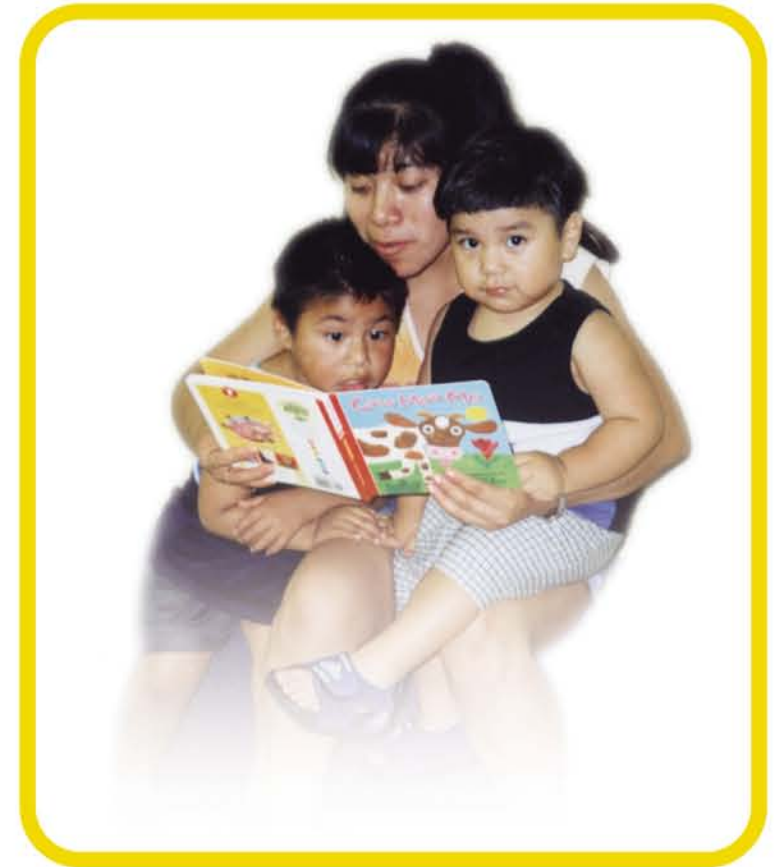
Sandy Little  
Program Director



Thomas D. Watkins, Jr.  
Superintendent of Public Instruction  
[www.state.mi.us/mde](http://www.state.mi.us/mde)



## Families Learning Together





## What Is Family Literacy?

Comprehensive Family Literacy programs integrate all four of the following:

- Interactive literacy activities between parents and their children
- Age-appropriate education to prepare children for success in school and life experience
- Training for parents regarding how to be the primary teachers for their children and full partners in their education
- Parent literacy training that leads to self-sufficiency

For Family Literacy Information:  
Michigan Department of Education  
Early Childhood and Parenting Programs  
Renee De Mars-Johnson  
Cheryl Hall ■ Maria Kingsley  
(517) 373-8483

## Michigan Statewide Family Literacy Continuum

Many family literacy activities and services exist, ranging from simple stand-alone interactive family activities, graduating in number and complexity toward comprehensive family literacy programs which include all four significant essential elements.

Activities that promote family literacy:

### Interactive literacy activities between parents and children:

- Quality time to creatively explore new experiences such as books, tactile boxes, developmentally appropriate games and toys
- Calendars of family activities
- Story hours and family fun days

### Age-appropriate education to prepare children for success in school and life experience:

- In-home visits, Michigan School Readiness Program, preschools, Head Start
- Before and after school programs
- Summer learning adventures

### Training for parents regarding how to be the primary teacher for their children and the full partners in their education:

- In-home curriculum information on programs such as Healthy Start, Parents as Teachers, HOME
- Sharing children's literature
- Parent classes on reading strategies

### Parent literacy training that leads to self-sufficiency:

- In-home computerized pre-GED tutoring program for transition to adult education
- Literacy lab for job search
- Parent book club discussion group
- Classes on budgeting, goal setting
- Local adult education literacy classes

## Family Literacy Collaboration

Programs are established through a collaboration of adult education, childhood education, and family support service providers; as well as libraries, community agencies, and businesses, to offer a comprehensive array of integrated family-centered services that assist the family as a unit.

This collaboration creatively combines resources to provide additional outcomes and benefits for families and communities.

### Community Challenge

#### School Success:

Children living in homes with parents who have not completed high school and are unemployed are five to six times more likely to drop out of school than other children.

#### Employment:

A high school dropout is twice as likely to be unemployed and, when employed, earn only half of a high school graduate's salary.

#### Self-Sufficiency:

Nearly one half of all heads of households receiving public assistance have not finished high school.

#### Health Care:

The most reliable indicator of family health is the educational level of the mother.

### Promise of Family Literacy

**Family Literacy** enables parents to improve their skills to be more effective in their role as their children's first and most important teachers and enhance the value placed upon education within families.

**Family Literacy** provides each parent with the basic educational and job skills needed to complete a high school diploma and participate effectively in the workforce.

**Family Literacy** reduces dependency on public assistance and significantly increases employment.

**Family Literacy** provides opportunities for parents to learn about child development, good health, and proper nutrition.

